Layering of CDMA Wireless Sensor Network Cluster to Improve Network Capacity

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Abstract—Nowadays, the network capacity of the wireless sensor network is a critical research topic area in the world. As the number of sensors connected to the network is quickly growing, it is important that they can sense and transmit data instantly. One of the approaches to increase the network capacity is clustering the sensors to control communication. The approach will divide sensors into several groups and drive the sensors to send the data through the cluster head. However, the approach will arise inter-cluster interference problems from the sensors near the border that is higher level than other sensors. All of those will cause the fewer sensor that can send the data so that reducing the network capacity. In order to overcome the problem, layering the sensor cluster is proposed which each cluster is divided into two layers. Moreover, the outer layer is divided into four zones and assigned one intermediary sensor in each zone. Sensors in the outer layer will communicate with the cluster head through the intermediary sensors. The method will reduce the transmission power and lessen the interference to other clusters. The approach not only can minimize interference coming from the sensors near the outer layer but also reduce the power consumption. The study concludes that applying the layering technique will drive the sensors near the border to generate minimum interference in their cluster and neighbor clusters. As a result, the network can deliver more capacity than approaches using either only clustering or layering.

Keywords—network capacity; cluster; layering; interference.

I. INTRODUCTION

Sensors provide intelligence for smart cities by providing useful information to enhance people’s life. These sensors sense, collect, and transmit data into the sink [1]. The data is then processed into useful information for monitoring and controlling the city's situation and directing people's movement efficiently. The sensors autonomously build a wireless sensor network (WSN) and collaborate to collect data [2]. As the number of sensors connected to the network is growing, network capacity is becoming an important issue. As with other wireless communications, the network capacity of code division multiple access (CDMA) wireless sensor networks is affected by the quality of the signal (E_b/I_0) which determines the bit error rate (BER) in the destination sensor [3][4]. One of the factors that impact directly on the BER of signals is the strength of interference. Higher interference means many errors occur in the network, and fewer sensors can transmit data in parallel.

Many efforts to overcome this problem have been completed by controlling the communication inside the network. The network is partitioned into several sub-networks to reduce complexity, and the sensors are divided into clusters that group sensors based on the deployment or power transmission [5]. In this paper, the author layers the clusters into two-layer and studies interference in the network. With this approach, the network capacity will be improved with the preservation of energy consumption at a minimum level [6].

Research on wireless sensor networks focuses on reducing interference and improving the lives of the network by maintaining low energy consumption. Reference [6] studied the cross-layer implementation in the network layer, medium access control (MAC) layer, and the physical layer to increase the network existence. The optimization problem encompasses routing, link scheduling, rate of transmission, and power distribution. Using the approach, varying source rate, link scheduling, and node’s placement can maximize the network lifetime. Reference [7] proposes two novel advances to achieve accuracy and approximation estimation of signal to interference and noise ratio (SINR) distribution in a wireless sensor network. This SINR distribution can be used to evaluate the throughput or the WNS’s capacity.

Reference [8] investigates the influence of the outage threshold into network capacity and relationship with modulation techniques like BPSK (binary phase-shift keying) and QAM (quadrature amplitude modulation). The paper also presented mathematical expression for the cumulative distribution function of SIR (the signal to interference power ratio) and the outage capacity. From the study of the outage threshold, it can be seen that increasing the power transmission and decreasing the modulation rate can significantly improve the network capacity.
threshold, the paper concludes that there is an optimum number that maximizes the outage capacity. Reference [9] evaluates the relationship between interference and traffic. The research shows that increasing the traffic will generate higher interference and collision in the receiver node. Then, the sender node spends more energy to retransmit the data. The research proposes a new method to overcome the problem by creating a new route of data transmission using a low loaded neighbor node.

Several works address optimum number of the router used in WSN to reduce interference but still maintain the system reliability [10], find a spanning tree that minimize the receiver’s interference by using MinMax-RIP and MinMax-BRIP algorithm [11], and derive transmitted power that consider relationship between interference and network activity by using stochastic geometry theory [12]. In the current work, we analyze the interference’s effect from the sensors near the border in the layering wireless sensor cluster and the effect on energy depletion and the capacity of the network. The paper is composed of three sections. Section I is the introduction of the research and the related work. Section II introduces the material and method (include network capacity and energy analysis); Section III shows the results and discussion.

II. MATERIALS AND METHOD

Sensors near the border generate an interference power higher than other sensors. To overcome this, the author proposes layering the cluster of the wireless sensor network cluster (Fig. 1). Each cluster was divided into two layers, layer one and layer two. A sensor in layer two will transmit the data into the cluster head (CH) through an intermediary node in layer one. There are two types of interference generated by sensors cluster B in layer 2. They interfere with other clusters around cluster B (inter-cluster interference) and interfere with its cluster (intra-cluster interference). With layering, the transmission power of the sensors in layer two will decrease and generate less interference. To evaluate the impact of interference, the author uses the network model in Fig. 1, with the performance indicator being average interference per cluster, network capacity, and average energy per cluster. Then the author compares this model with two other models, namely the cluster network and layering network.

![Fig. 1 Layering of the wireless sensor network cluster](Image)

The network model uses a random uniform distribution for sensor deployment. Let \( m \) be a signal path loss exponent, and then sensor \( e \) generates intra-cluster interference in CH:

\[
P_{I,e} = \frac{(z_{ea} + z_{ef} - 2z_{ea}a_{ef} \cos \theta)^{m/2}}{z_{ea}^{m/2}} P_{r,f}
\]  

If \( t = z_{ea}/z_{ef} \) and \( p = R/R \) then (1) becomes:

\[
P_t = \frac{(1 + t^2 - 2t \cos \theta)^{m/2}}{(1 + t^2 - 2 \cos \theta)^{m/2}} P_{r,f}
\]  

where \( t \) is the ratio of the distance between the cluster head (example \( z_{ea} \)) and the distance between the sender and its cluster head (example \( z_{ef} \)). Sensor \( e \) generates intra-cluster interference in CH:

\[
P_{I,e} = \frac{(z_{ea} + z_{ef} - 2z_{ea}a_{ef} \cos \theta)^{m/2}}{z_{ea}^{m/2}} P_{r,f}
\]  

Following [3], the interference signal follows the probability distribution function (pdf):  

\[
f_{P_t} = \begin{cases} 
\frac{d P_{P_t}}{P_{P_t}^{m/2}}, & \text{for } P_{P_t}^{m} < P_t < P_{P_t}^{m} \\
0, & \text{for } P_{P_t}^{m} < P_t < P_r 
\end{cases}
\]  

where:

- \( P_r \) is the receiving power \\
- \( P_t \) is the interference power \\
- \( z_{a} \) is the smallest range between sensors \\
- \( z_{R} \) is the highest sensor range \\
- \( z_{s} \) is the interfering sensor range \\
- \( m \) is the signal path loss exponent.

The amount of interference power from sensors near the border can be represented by the average value of the interference power with distribution following (4). The average interference between clusters is calculated:

\[
E[P_t] = \int_{P_r}^{P_f} f(P_t) dP_t
\]  

The lower bound and the upper bound of (5) is

\[
0 < P_t < \frac{(1 + t^2 - 2t \cos \theta)^{m/2}}{(1 + t^2 - 2 \cos \theta)^{m/2}} P_{r,f}
\]  

Applying the bound in (6) with probability distribution function following (4), then the average interference signal power \( E[P_t] \) is as follows:

\[
E[P_t] = \frac{A + B - C}{E} d(P_t) + \int_{P_r}^{P_f} D d(P_t)
\]  

where:  

\( A = d_{a}^{\alpha}; B = P_{t}^{\alpha} d_{a}^{2}; C = mP_{a}^{\alpha}(d_{a}^2 - d_{e}^2)(d_{e}^2 - d_{f}^2) \)

\( D = P_{t}^{\alpha}(d_{a}^2 + d_{e}^2); E = m(d_{e}^2 - d_{f}^2) \)

The sensor \( f \) controls the transmission’s power of the sensor \( e \) and the interference to CH. Implementing the same method as (7) resulting in (Pf)_a:

\[
(P_f)_a = (p^\alpha + 1 - 1.414p)^{\alpha/2} P_{r,f}
\]
For $\theta_i=\emptyset$, the interference from sensor i to cluster A is:

$$(P_i)_p = (p^2 + 1 - 2p)^\chi P_{e,f}$$

(9)

The sensor’s position influences the amount of interference of the sensor into the cluster head. Sensor i has high interference into CH, compare to other sensors as its position is nearest to CH. However, sensor i generates the lowest interference to CH because its position is nearest to intermediary sensor f, and it needs low transmission power to send data into CH. The $p$ variable has a value between zero and one when the layer moves from the centre into the cluster’s border. If the layer is near the cluster head, the sensors are mainly located in layer two and produce excessive inter-cluster interference but little interference with its cluster. The contrasting case takes place when $p$ moves to 1. Most of the sensors are located in the inner layer, and fewer sensors are located in the outer layer. The $p$ variable has a minimum impact at the position between the centre and the border of the cluster.

**A. Network Capacity Analysis**

Network capacity is an indicator to measure how many sensors can send data simultaneously. In the CDMA environment, the successful delivery of data is determined by the $E_b/I_0$ signal received in the destination sensor. A lower $E_b/I_0$ means a higher bit error rate. The interference inside the cluster and from other clusters will affect the number of sensors that can be active at one time. A particular cluster capacity depends on another cluster capacity [13]. Increasing the capacity of one cluster will decrease another cluster capacity. If the capacity is growing, then it produces more signal and high interference to other clusters. Because the interference in a cluster is limited to the threshold value, the cluster will decrease active sensors to keep the performance above a certain threshold.

$$n_i + \sum_{j=1}^{n_c} n_j \kappa_j \leq \frac{W}{R} \left( \frac{1}{\alpha} - \frac{1}{E_b/N_0} \right) + 1 \equiv c_{ef}$$

(10)

Equation (10) shows the relationship between the threshold value $c_{ef}$ and the sum of interference in a cluster. The interference should be lower than the threshold to keep the performance excellent. Several factors influence the threshold like the processing gain, the number of active sensors ($\alpha$), and $E_b/N_0$. The equation (10) is the network capacity linear programming. Applying (10) into the network model (Fig.1) will solve the optimization problems for CDMA wireless sensor network. The objective is to find maximum sensors in every cluster with the total interference is lower than the threshold value. The total interference is computed from the average interference power and the number of sensors in each cluster.

Objective function:  
$$\max \left( \sum_{u=1}^{n} n_u + \sum_{u=2}^{n} n_u \right)$$

(11)

Constraint:  
$$IX \leq c_{ef}$$

(12)

where:  
n is sum of the sensors in a cluster

M is sum of the clusters

$k$ is the interference factor

W is the bandwidth of a signal

T is $E_b/I_0$ threshold

I is the average interference power metrics

X is sum of the sensors in every cluster metric

$c_{ef}$ is the maximum of active sensors in a network

**B. Energy Analysis**

Sensors use energy to sense the data and then transmit it into the cluster head, while the sensor that acts as a cluster head does several activities as other sensors and an additional job like receiving data from sensor member, aggregating and transmitting it into the sink. The energy consumption in a sensor will increase when it becomes a cluster head. Energy consumption in CDMA wireless sensor networks is affected by the transmission power, the number of bits transferred, and the number of retransmissions.

$$E_e = \frac{aP KL_s}{R_s}$$

(13)

where:  
$E_e$ is energy consumption

$\alpha$ is the activity factor

$P_s$ is the transmission power

$L_b$ is sum of bits transferred

$R_s$ is the transmission rate

$K$ is the number of retransmission (due to error).

Variable K shows how many retransmissions occur caused by the error, and depends on the average PER (packet error rate) [14].

$$K = \frac{1}{(1 - \text{PER})}$$

If one packet consists of $L_b$ bits, then the probability of packet error depends on the probability of bit error ($p_e$):

$$\text{PER} = 1 - (1 - p_e)^L_b$$

(15)

The distance between sensors and the received power in the receiving sensor influences energy spending in the network. In CDMA, the receiving signal will be kept constant by power control. The average energy consumption depends on the random variable distance.

$$E = \frac{aP KL_s}{R_s}$$

(16)

If $y=d^a$ with the probability distribution function (pdf) following [3], we can then calculate average energy consumption.

$$f_d(y) = \begin{cases} \frac{2y^{\alpha-1}}{m(r^r - r_0^r)} (r_e^r, r^r) \\ 0, elsewhere \end{cases}$$

(17)

Evaluating average energy consumption by equation (16) using pdf in equation (17), we obtain:

$$E[E_e] = \frac{aKL_s}{R_s} \left[ 1 - (1 - \text{PER}) \right]$$

(18)

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III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To analyze the effect of the layering model on the CDMA wireless sensor network cluster, we apply (7), (11), (12), and (18) with the parameters in Table 1. The interference matrix to solve optimization is using Table 2 and Table 3, with the performance indicators evaluated, namely average interference, network capacity, and energy consumption with the network model shown in Fig. 1.

**TABLE I**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
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**TABLE III**

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</table>

For the evaluation, the author sets up 4 clusters, and each cluster has two layers. To serve the sensors in the outer layer, the author defines four zones and allocate one intermediary sensor for each zone, presented in Fig. 2.

![Fig. 2 Layering wireless sensor network cluster](image_url)
Table 2 and Table 3 are the interference matrix that is evaluated using (7). Every cell shows an average interference factor between clusters, the farther distance between clusters is getting smaller the interference factors. First, the author evaluates the effect of layering ratio into interference and network capacity. The layering ratio determines the sensor’s distance in the outer layer from the intermediary sensor and influences the amount of interference for its cluster and other clusters. Fig. 3 plots the effect of the layering ratio on interference and network capacity. The percentage (%) indicator of interference power in Fig. 3 measures how much interference occurs in the cluster compared with its receiving power (-70 dBm).

The result shows that there is a little variation in interference power for layering ratio (p) between 0.1 until 0.5, which it decreases to minimum interference power at radius 0.7, then rises again. At layering ratio 0.7, the amount of interference power is only 6%, much lower than 24% (the highest contribution) at layering ratio of 0.1. This behavior occurs because of the distance variation between the sensors in layer 2 and the intermediary sensor. Besides interference, Fig. 3 shows network capacity in the network model. If interference is low, then the number of active sensors will increase, and vice versa. At point 0.7, the network will have a maximum capacity as it has the lowest level of interference.

Second, the author evaluates the relationship between layering ratio and energy per cluster. Fig. 4 shows the effect of the layering technique on energy consumption. Same with interference, energy consumption tends to decrease from point 0.1 to 0.5, it decreases sharply to its minimum level at layering radius 0.7, then increasing again. At layering ratio 0.7, the amount of average energy per cluster 1x10^-6 Joule compares to 2.2x10^-6 Joule (2.2 times) at 0.1. The average energy consumption depends on the average packet error rate (PER), and the PER relies on the amount of interference taking place in the network. Higher interference will cause many transmission errors and the need for retransmission, and it increases energy consumption. That is why energy consumption shows similar behavior to the interference graph in Fig. 3.

Third, the author evaluates how the layering approach in CDMA wireless sensor network clusters could add network capacity. The simulation using the configuration in Fig. 2 results in a network capacity of 712 sensors with the sensor distribution is displayed in Fig. 5. Zone A, B, C, and D have the fewest number of sensors, while zone A1, A3, B1, B4, C2, C3, D2, and D4 own the largest sensors. The sensor distribution follows the interference pattern where the inner layer experiences interference from 4 zones and other clusters, whereas the outer layer only has little interference from the outer layer or the inner layer.

The author simulates to increase the number of clusters, evaluate interference distribution and the growth of network capacity. Also, energy spending in the network is assessed. Fig. 6 presents the relationship between the number of clusters, network capacity, and average energy spending in the system.
On average, increasing the number of clusters by 76% will increase network capacity by nearly 27%, and also increases energy consumption by 2%. The study also shows that the growth in average energy consumption is almost the same as network capacity. Next, we compare the performance of layering in the cluster network (cluster layering) with the layering and cluster only approaches. In the layering approach, the network will be partitioned into several layers with the sink as the center, as shown in Fig.7. The method minimizes interferences by selecting a sensor in layer one to serve the outer sensor when it wants to send the data into the sink. For instance, if sensor h sends data to sensor e through intermediary sensor g and f. With this approach, the transmit power of sensor h will be reduced.

Another approach is network cluster, displayed in Fig.8. It applies network clustering to reduce interference where the cluster’s members send data through the cluster head. Then the cluster head will proceed with the data aggregation that combines data from several sensors and sends it into the sink. In this model, the transmission power of sensors will be controlled by the cluster head, and interference power depends on the distance between the sensors and cluster head.

Fig. 7 Network model with a layering approach

Fig. 8 Network model with a clustering approach

Fig. 9 displays the impact of the three approaches on average energy consumption. The results show that energy consumption in the cluster layering approach is much lesser than the other methods, then follows by layering and cluster. This means that the approach is more efficient than the other technique. Increasing the number of clusters shows little variation in energy consumption in the three methods.

Fig. 9 Number of cluster vs average energy per sensor

Fig. 10 shows the relationship between the number of clusters and network capacity (number of sensors). Increasing the number of clusters will increase network capacity. The study indicates that cluster layering delivers higher network capacity compares to the other approaches. Cluster layer’s capacity is about 1.5 times that of the layering and about 6 times that of the cluster approach. Even though cluster layering results in higher capacity, the network capacity’s growth is similar to the other methods (49%–52%). The reason for higher capacity is cluster layering result in four times new zone to cluster approach. Fig. 10 displays another interesting result that the curve of cluster layering and layering the only approach follow an exponential line, however, the cluster approach curve is linear.

Fig. 10 Number of clusters versus network capacity

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The research of layering on CDMA wireless sensor network clusters has led to the following conclusion. The approach has a significant impact on reducing interference and increasing network capacity compared to cluster or layer only method. At a layering ratio of 0.7, the network experiences the lowest level of interference and maximum network capacity. The amount of interference at this layering ratio is 6% from receiving power in the cluster head. The interference is not equal in every area. It impacts to un-equal network capacity in every layer where the inner layer that
experiences higher interference than the outer layer will have the lowest network capacity. Vice versa, the outer most layer has lower interference than other layers, and it has the highest network capacity. The research shows that layering in CDMA wireless sensor networks is a superior approach to that of layering or clustering only methods. Network capacity will increase by 1.5-6 times if the layering cluster approach is applied.

REFERENCES


